

## Tricky Textiles

After holiday feasts and gift giving, often we are left with textiles that are stained, ripped, or are no longer wanted. From clothes to blankets, table cloths to curtains, it can be difficult to decide where and how to part with these items. One thing to remember, regardless of the condition, textiles do NOT belong in your curbside recycling bin. Luckily, there are countless entities that would be more than happy to take old textiles, often regardless of their condition. Only 15% of textiles are reused or recycled – the rest goes straight to a landfill or incinerator. Nearly 95% of those textiles can be reused or recycled.

Even if items are not in wearable condition such as torn, stained, missing buttons or have broken zippers, they can still be recycled. As long as the items are dry and odor-free.

Of all of the used clothing and household textiles that are currently being recycled it is estimated that :

- 40% is re-used for its original purpose (i.e. as an item of clothing).
- Approximately 30% is cut into industrial wiping and polishing cloths.
- 25% is shipped to mills that shred the textiles into fiber that is then used to manufacture new products such as home insulation, car soundproofing, carpet padding and stuffing for upholstered furniture and pet bedding.



New York State residents throw away over 1.4 billion pounds of clothes and textiles annually. Most of that will end up in a landfill. Instead of throwing textiles away, you can find collection and donation centers that accept your textiles for reuse or repurposing. Visit the [Re-Clothe NY website](#) to find a list of acceptable items and a drop off location near you.

